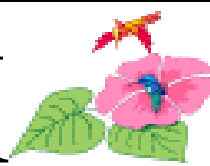




# SHOT TALK



## 2001 National Infant Immunization Week

Approximately one in four newborn to 2-year-old children in the United States is not properly immunized against infectious and potentially deadly diseases, such as measles, whooping cough, and chickenpox. The low immunization rates of these unprotected children poses a serious threat to their health.

However, the good news is that more children in the past few years have been vaccinated than ever before. This is due in large part to the efforts of thousands of individuals and organizations throughout our communities. These community members have worked diligently to raise awareness about childhood immunizations and ensure that under-immunized children in high-risk communities receive their necessary vaccinations. Community efforts are needed to reach the goal of immunizing at least 90 percent of America's 2-year-olds.

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW), April 22-28, 2001, will highlight the role we all play in raising infant immunization rates across the country. The campaign offers San Antonio and Bexar County the opportunity to promote childhood vaccinations and to build awareness about the important role that communities play in this effort.

Together, we can carry this important immunization message to our communities in and around San Antonio. This year's message is "Immunization: Our Work Has Just Begun."



The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) will celebrate NIIW by hosting the Fourth Annual Vaccines for Children Appreciation Breakfast on April 18, 2001 at the Omni Hotel. The morning promises to be interesting and enjoyable. Confirmed speakers include Dr. Raymond Strikas, MD, Epidemiologist from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. W. S. Riggins Jr., Regional Director, Texas Department of Health, Linda Linville, MS, RN, Chief, Bureau of Immunization and Pharmacy Support, Texas Department of Health, and Melissa Bryne Vossmer, Assistant City Manager. Dr. Fernando Guerra, Director, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, will be the moderator. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. followed by opening remarks and the keynote address by Dr. Strikas. Door prizes will conclude the event. All VFC providers will receive their invitations in late March. You, or your staff representative, are urged to make plans to attend this special and informative event.

The SAMHD will host activities throughout the week of NIIW at local

clinics and in the community to raise awareness about the importance of infant and childhood immunizations. To learn how to become involved with local immunization activities, call Pamela C. Williams, Infant Action Plan Coordinator at (210) 207-2869.

## Vaccine Shortage Update

In the December issue of *Shot Talk*, the shortage of DTaP and TD was discussed. According to the most recent MMWR, the situation has not improved. Previously published recommendations outlined priorities for use of the limited supply of Td and TT. The shortage was expected to be resolved by early 2001, however, on January 10, 2001, Wyeth Lederle (Pearl River, New York) announced it had stopped production of tetanus toxoid-containing products. Although a small amount of Td is produced by the University of Massachusetts for local distribution, Aventis Pasteur (Swiftwater, Pennsylvania) is now the sole nationwide distributor of Td and TT. Aventis Pasteur is shipping limited quantities of vaccine to assure a wide distribution of available doses.

In accordance with previous recommendations, prioritization of Td use will be necessary until supplies are restored. Aventis Pasteur is

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increasing the amount of Td production. However, because of the long production time required, the shortage is not expected to be resolved for 12--18 months.

Aventis Pasteur and Glaxo SmithKline (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), producers of Tripedia® and Infanrix™, respectively, are the only remaining suppliers of DTaP. On March 7, 2001, the Food and Drug Administration approved a newly formulated version of Tripedia® in one-dose vials without preservative and with only a trace amount of thimerosal. Approval of this vaccine should improve the supply of DTaP.

DTaP vaccine is recommended as a five-dose series: three doses given to infants at ages 2, 4, and 6 months, followed by two booster doses at age 15--18 months and at age 4--6 years. Some vaccine providers may have difficulties obtaining sufficient supplies of DTaP to vaccinate all children in their practices. According to recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), if providers have insufficient quantities of DTaP, priorities should be given to vaccinating infants with the initial three DTaP doses and, if necessary, to defer the fourth DTaP dose. However, children should be vaccinated with all other recommended vaccines according to the Childhood Immunization Schedule. When adequate DTaP supplies are available, providers should recall for vaccination all children who did not receive the fourth dose of DTaP. If supplies are sufficient, children aged 4--6 years should be vaccinated in accordance with existing ACIP recommendations to assure immunity to pertussis, diphtheria, and tetanus during the elementary school years. CDC is evaluating the situation, and more guidance will be provided should substantial supply problems occur.

The SAMHD VFC Program is being impacted by this vaccine shortage. As a result, providers will

be receiving thirty-day supplies of DTaP and Td in order to meet all VFC providers' minimum needs. The SAMHD may adjust vaccine delivery policies based on future CDC guidance. VFC providers are reminded to ensure that **only VFC eligible patients receive VFC vaccine**. For more information contact Vivian Flores at 207-2868 or Anthony Johnson at 921-1178.

*Source: MMWR March 16, 2001/50(10); 189-190.*



*Dr. Esther Yoo and her staff receive a certificate of accomplishment.*

### Immunization Rates Exceed National Goal of 90%

The Quality Assurance (QA)/AFIX (Assessment Feedback Incentive and Exchange) Team would like to congratulate Dr. Yoo and her staff members at Alamo Pediatric Clinic for achieving 93% immunization coverage for the 4:3:1:3:3 immunization series in 2000. This indicates that 93% of Dr. Yoo's patients were completely immunized consistent with the basic immunization series of four DTaP, three Polio, one MMR, 3 HIB, and 3 Hep B by the time the child reached 24 months of age. The following practices also received certificates for their immunization rates; Southwest Children's Center reached 83%, and Dr. K. Job Chacko achieved 82% for the 4:3:1:3:3 immunization series as well. **Congratulations** to these three practices for working hard to protect the children in our community from vaccine-preventable diseases.

In addition to recognizing immunization rates, the QA/AFIX Team has been very active conducting

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VFC site visits and/or records reviews in the public and private settings. Since our last newsletter the following VFC providers have participated in the site visit process.

**Dr. Dennis W. Kost, Dr. Leoncio Garza-Valdes, Dr. Raymond H Hernandez, Jr., Bexar County Juvenile Detention Center, Bexar County Juvenile Detention Center-Southton Unit, Southwest Clinic, South Texas Center for Pediatric Care, Laurel Heights Clinic, Community Clinic Inc., Pediatric Associates Clock Tower, Healthy Kids Pediatrics, ABCD Pediatrics, San Antonio Family Medical Clinic, Dr. P.A. Deleon, Quantum Mission Hills Health Center Medical Group, Dr. Gloria Abraham-Cox, Dr. Josephine Ruiz-Healy, First Steps Pediatrics, Dr. Kellum, Valley Clinic, Leon Valley Health Center, Stone Oak Pediatrics, I-H 10 Family Clinic, Dr. Dante P. Escalante, Dr. Mario R. Juarez, S.W. Military Drive Minor Emergency Clinic, Dr. C. Day Gruesbech, Alamo City Medical Group, Holy Cross Family Practice, Hill's Medical Clinic, Family Doctor Office-Lytle, Cibolo Creek Medical Group, Children First Pediatrics, Kellum Medical Clinic, Little Texans Pediatrics, Family Doctor Office-Nogalitos, Family Doctor Office-Commercial, D. Rebecca Olivares, Santa Rosa School Based Health Clinic, John Glenn Elementary School, Harmony Elementary Scholl, and the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District-City Chest Clinic**

Congratulations to ABCD Pediatrics for achieving 81% on their 4:3:1:3:3 immunization series during a recent VFC/AFIX site visit. They will also be receiving a certificate of Achievement from the Vaccines for Children Program.

The QA/AFIX Team has been able to accomplish an increasing number of site visits because it has grown since the first of the year. Two new staff members are on board; they are Anita Wilson, LVN, Health Program Specialist, and Elvira Tucker Administrative Aide.

St. Margaret Mary's School and St. Martin Hall at Our Lady of the Lake University join Barrio

Comprehensive Family Health Center and Nusrat Medical Centers by requesting the installation of the Clinical Assessment Software Application (CASA) Program in their facilities. These organizations are using it to track their immunization rates as well as utilizing it for their reminder/recall system. The CASA program and training on the use of the software is provided FREE of charge from the VFC Program.

If you have any questions regarding the installation of the software, training, or wish to schedule a site visit, please contact Keith Mason, QA/AFIX Coordinator at 207-8142 or email him at kmason@ci.sat.ts.us

### **VFC Welcomes Five New Providers**

Since the December issue of *Shot Talk* the following providers have joined the VFC Program:

Dr. Francisco Montemayor, Dr. David Shulman, Respite Care Medical Wellness Clinic, and the Campbell A. Griffin Center.

#### **Welcome Aboard**

### **Special Projects Team Launches 2 New Studies**

#### **Pentacel™ Study**

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District is conducting a study on Pentacel™, a combination vaccine containing DTaP, HIB, and IPV antigens made by Aventis Pasteur, Inc. The objective of the study is to assess the safety of Pentacel™. In addition, the study will monitor its efficacy in inducing the desired immune responses in children in the United States when given in combination with other recommended vaccines for the same age group. Pentacel™ was licensed and has been in use in Canada since 1997. Children in the study will receive Pentacel™, Prevnar®, Hepatitis B, MMR, and Varivax free of charge. The study consists of seven visits over a sixteen-month period. For more information, call Brenda Lemke at 207-6916.

#### **MMRV Study**

The SAMHD is currently recruiting children between the ages of 12-15 months to participate in a clinical research study of a new vaccine, called MMRV. This vaccine is a combination of the measles, mumps, rubella vaccine (MMR) and the varicella vaccine. The goal of the study is to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of the combination vaccine, while decreasing the number of injections children are required to receive. The study consists of three visits over a three-month period. A blood draw is required for each visit. The children participating will receive all state required vaccinations free of charge, and parents will be compensated for their time and travel. If you would like more information on the MMRV study, please contact Brenda Lemke at (210) 207-3969.

#### **HPV Study**

The SAMHD is also currently recruiting women between the ages of 15-25 years of age for a research study on a new Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. The goal of the research study is to learn about the safety and effectiveness of this investigational vaccine in the prevention of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), which has been associated in the development of cervical cancer in women. The length of the study consists of eight visits over an eighteen-month period. A pelvic examination and Pap Smear will be required on certain visits. Eligible clients will receive all services free of charge, and will be compensated for time and travel. If you would like more information on the HPV study, please contact Rebecca Garcia, RN at (210) 207-2859 or Brenda Lemke at (210) 207-6916.

### **RSV Wraps Up**

The SAMHD's respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) program which commenced in October 2000, will be coming to a close at the end of March 2001. The purpose of this program is to protect premature infants from contracting the seasonal and highly contagious virus referred to as

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"RSV". The RSV season in San Antonio typically runs from October through April.

To date, the SAMHD has treated 34 infants with SYNAGIS™ injections. Of those 34, only two have contracted the RSV virus despite the prophylactic treatment. This represents a 94% success rate for this program. Furthermore, it is estimated that the SYNAGIS™ injections reduced the length of hospitalization for RSV disease for those two clients. The infants tolerated this preventative medication well, and no reports of adverse effects were received by SAMHD. SYNAGIS™ can be given in conjunction with all other vaccines without any contraindications or complications. For further information on RSV please contact Brenda Lemke at (210) 207-6916.

### **Are You Aware of the LAW?**

The Perinatal Screening Law has been in effect for eighteen months. This statute mandates testing for hepatitis B during prenatal visits and upon admission to the hospital for delivery. Once a positive test result is obtained, the SAMHD's Perinatal Hepatitis B Program should be notified.

The SAMHD's Perinatal Program can assist with the management of the hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) positive woman, her infant, and the household/sexual contacts. Examples of the case management services that are available include:

- Free testing, counseling, and where appropriate, vaccination of household/sexual contacts of the HBsAg-positive woman.
- Home visits to follow mother and baby upon discharge from the hospital. If the family and their healthcare provider wish, the Perinatal Program can provide free hepatitis B immunizations and post-vaccine testing for the infant at no charge.
- Free booklets (in several languages) to provide information about hepatitis B to the patient and



the family.

Physicians and their staff with HBsAg-positive prenatal patients should notify the SAMHD Perinatal Program by phone or Fax about the positive test results as soon as they are received. The prenatal records should be clearly marked and forwarded to the hospital where the mother will be delivering.

Hospitals have the responsibility of testing all patients admitted for delivery regardless of their prenatal status. Although all newborns should receive the first dose of the hepatitis B vaccine, it is imperative that infants born to HBsAg-positive mothers receive immunoprophylaxis with HBIG and hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hour of birth.

The birthing hospital should develop and incorporate standards of care into their operational policies and procedures to ensure all expectant mothers are screened for HBsAg and all newborns are appropriately managed to prevent hepatitis B infection. "Don't let any infants slip through the cracks." The Perinatal Program also provides inservice training on Perinatal Hepatitis B for hospital staff. Please contact Tom Gonzalez at 207-2088 to schedule a Perinatal Hepatitis B inservice.

For physicians, educational seminars about hepatitis are available to them and their staff at no cost from the SAMHD. The perinatal staff can also assist with answers to questions that staff or patients may have during the workday.

Enclosed for your use is the Perinatal Hepatitis B Project Referral form. For more information on Hepatitis B you may contact Tom Gonzalez, MLT, Health Program Supervisor 207-2088 or Nancy Walea, RN, Coordinator, 207-2087.

### Infant Action Program (IAP)

After a two-year hiatus, the IAP Outreach Program has successfully filled the Health Program Outreach

Supervisor position making the IAP team complete. The Infant Action Program would like to welcome aboard Gloria Johnson, LVN.

Ms. Johnson joined the IAP in July 2000 and comes to us with an extensive background in the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC). Since July, Gloria has been collaborating with community partners and coordinating outreach activities such as health fairs and parent education presentations. As an experienced immunization educator, her goal is to reach as many parents as possible with the message about the importance of immunizing their children. Together with VFC, IAP strives to improve the immunization rates in San Antonio! If you are interested in having an immunization presentation for your parent or community group please call Gloria Johnson at 207-6917.

### Flu Vaccine Still Available

As the influenza season is winding down, cases are still being reported. The SAMHD will continue to have flu vaccine available at all health department clinics until June 2001. Delays in flu vaccine production during the 2000-2001 influenza season postponed flu vaccination efforts for many providers and pharmacies. To ensure that all high-risk individuals receive their annual influenza immunization, the CDC advised all flu vaccine providers to extend their vaccination efforts through February 2001. Flu season usually runs from December through March.

Although the SAMHD was able to target nearly 13,000 high-risk and healthy individuals for flu vaccination, a plentiful supply of vaccine is in inventory and will not expire until June 2001.

### Looking Ahead to 2001-2002

Preparations will soon be underway for the 2001-2002 Influenza Vaccination Campaign. Providers should be aware that the cost of flu vaccine for the 2001-2002

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season has nearly doubled in price from last year. The price for a ten dose vial will average about \$50.00 as opposed to last year's price of \$30.00. SAMHD encourages all providers to order their flu vaccine **now** to avoid rising vaccine costs and to secure an adequate supply for their patients.

Immunization recommendations for the 2001-2002 Influenza Season will be published in the April 2001 issue of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). Providers can expect to see A/New Caledonia-like and A/Moscow-like strain components in the upcoming year's vaccine with a B/Sichuan-like isolate replacing the current flu season's B/Beijing strain. Manufacturers and health experts are hopeful that the pitfalls encountered last year will not be repeated during the upcoming flu immunization season.

### Upcoming City Holidays

*Fiesta San Jacinto Day*

*April 27, 2001*

*Memorial Day*

*May 28, 2001*

### Immunization Program Contacts

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Hepatitis Program/Surveillance/Rabies:	
Nancy Walea, RN	207-2087
VFC Coordinator:	
Vivian Flores	207-2868
Vaccine Ordering:	
Anthony Johnson	921-1178
Infant Action Plan/WIC Linkage:	
Pamela Williams	207-2869
Vaccine Study Coordinator:	
Brenda Lemke, MHA	207-2859
Special Project Coord. Registry/Info. Systems	
Walter Widish	207-8792
Adolescent/Adult Program:	
Rita Salazar	207-8877
AFIX/QA Program	
Keith Mason	207-8142

**SAMHD:** [www.samhd.org](http://www.samhd.org)

**TDH:** [www.tdh.state.tx.us](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us)

**CDC:** [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

